

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 OMB-01 AEC-11 SCI-06

DRC-01 /176 W

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R 040941Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5198

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 30955

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, GW

SUBJECT: POMPIDOU-BRANDT SUMMIT

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REF: A) PARIS 30411 (NOTAL); B) PARIS 30535 (NOTAL)
C) BONN 17316 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. POMPIDOU-BRANDT SUMMIT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN OCCASION FOR MUTUAL EMPHASIS OF POSITIVE AND AVOIDANCE OF NEGATIVE. IN ATMOSPHERICS, FRG-FRENCH RELATIONS HAVE RETURNED TO "HARMONY" OF PERIOD PRECEDING "CHIRAC AFFAIR." WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE FRENCH CONCERNS OVER GERMANY DESCRIBED IN PARIS 22562 HAVE MODERATED SOMEWHAT, THEY CONTINUE TO LURK JUST BELOW SURFACE OF GOF PREOCCUPATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR CENTRAL EUROPE BOYER GAVE US FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON POMPIDOU-BRANDT SUMMIT, WHICH FLESH OUT REPORTS IN REFTELS.

3. ENERGY. BOYER CONFIRMED DE MARGERIE'S IMPRESSION (REF B) THAT PRESS HAD EXAGGERATED RESULTS OF DISCUSSION OF ENERGY BETWEEN POMPIDOU AND BRANDT. HE SAID NEITHER LEADER ENVISIONED CREATION OF NEW ENERGY ORGANIZATION WITHIN EC, ALTHOUGH BOTH AGREED TO UTILIZE EXISTING EC FRAMEWORK FOR DISCUSSION OF ENERGY CRISIS AND GENERAL HARMONIZATION OF NATIONAL POLICIES. MOREOVER, THERE WAS ONLY VAGUE DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE BILATERAL FRG-FRANCE COOPERATION IN ENERGY FIELD.

4. WEU. WHILE NOTING LEBER SPEECH TO WEU (PARIS 30341), SIMILAR REMARKS BY SCHEEL IN LONDON (BONN 17158, NOTAL), AND UK FOREIGN OFFICE PRESS STATEMENT OF NOVEMBER 27 REPORTEDLY REJECTING THE WEU AS THE APPROPRIATE FRAMEWORK FOR THE DISCUSSION OF DEFENSE PROBLEMS, BOYER SAID THAT BRANDT SEEMED MORE "FLEXIBLE" ON POSSIBLE INCREASED ROLE FOR WEU IN EUROPEAN DEFENSE AFFAIRS. BOYER REPEATED WELL-KNOWN FRENCH REJECTION OF PARTICIPATION IN EUROGROUP (E.G. ITS "ASSOCIATION" WITH NATO'S INTEGRATED MILITARY SYSTEM; STRONG INTERNAL FRENCH POLITICAL OBJECTIONS TO EUROGROUP, CENTERED IN MAJORITY UDR PARTY).

5. FRG FORCES. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION, BOYER SAID THAT BRANDT HAD DESCRIBED FRG "RESTRUCTURING" OF BUNDESWEHR TO POMPIDOU, BUT HE WAS UNINFORMED AS TO POMPIDOU'S RESPONSE. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, BOYER COMMENTED THAT FRANCE IS ALWAYS DISAPPOINTED WHEN ITS ALLIES TAKE STEPS THAT MAY LEAD TO A
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"REDUCTION" IN EUROPE'S DEFENSES. FOR ITS PART, BOYER CONTINUED, FRANCE INTENDS TO MAINTAIN THE DEFENSES IT BELIEVES NECESSARY FOR EUROPE'S SECURITY.

6. OTHER DEFENSE ISSUES. BOYER CONFIRMED THAT THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF MBFR OR OF FRENCH TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS (SEE PARIS 27719, NOTAL).

7. CSCE. BOYER SAID THAT ONLY AREA OF EVEN PARTIAL DISAGREEMENT WITH GERMANS CAME OVER CSCE FOLLOW-UP PERMANENT MACHINERY, WHEN FRENCH TOOK THEIR USUAL SKEPTICAL VIEW (WHICH BOYER CHARACTERIZED AS BEING "LIKE THE US APPROACH"). WHILE GERMANS SHOWED WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT SOME SORT OF PERMANENT MACHINERY.

8. EC SUMMIT. IN ADDITION TO POINTS REPORTED IN REF A, BOYER ADDED THAT BRANDT AND POMPIDOU WERE IN COMPLETE ACCORD ON BALANCE BETWEEN NEED FOR PRIVATE TALKS AT CHIEF OF STATE-HEADS OF GOVERNMENT LEVEL, AND PARALLEL TALKS AT LOWER, (E.G. FORNMIN) LEVEL IN COURSE OF COPENHAGEN EC SUMMIT. THEY ALSO AGREED THAT SOME WAY COULD BE FOUND TO MEET CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS CONFRONTING SOME COUNTRIES REGARDING RESTRICTED ATTENDANCE AT SUMMIT MEETINGS. HE NOTED THAT BRANDT AND POMPIDOU BELIEVE THAT EC SUMMIT SHOULD NOT ADDRESS SPECIFIC CURRENT ISSUES, WHICH ARE MORE APPROPRIATELY HANDLED IN EXISTING EC MACHINERY, BUT RATHER FOCUS ON BROADER ASPECTS OF GENERAL POLITICAL AND DEFENSE POLICIES.

9. NEXT GOF-FRG SUMMIT. THE NEXT SUMMIT WILL BE HELD IN APRIL OR MAY 1974. THE FRENCH EXPECT IT TO BE AS TRANQUIL AS THIS ONE WAS.

10. COMMENT: THROUGHOUT OUR CONVERSATION, BOYER SOUGHT TO CONVEY THAT SUMMIT WAS ROUTINE MEETING WITH NO SURPRISES. HE REJECTED AS "UNWARRANTED SPECULATION" THE FRENCH PRESS REPORTS OF SIGNIFICANT SUMMIT DISCUSSION OF ENERGY AND DEFENSE ISSUES. MOST IMPORTANT (INDEED, ACCORDING TO BOYER THE ONLY IMPORTANT) RESULT OF MEETING WAS TO ELIMINATE BAD AFTERTASTE OF LAST SUMMER'S CHIRAC AFFAIR AND TO DEMONSTRATE THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN PARIS AND BONN HAVE RETURNED TO EARLIER HARMONY. WHILE FUNDAMENTAL CONTRADICTIONS IN FRENCH EUROPEAN (AND ATLANTIC) POLICIES REMAIN AS DESCRIBED IN PARIS 22562, CONFIDENTIAL

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INTENSE PREOCCUPATION WITH "GERMAN PROBLEM", SO APPARENT LAST SUMMER, HAS MODERATED SOMEWHAT. SEVERAL FACTORS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS CHANGE. FIRST, BONN'S RECENT EMPHASIS ON WESTPOLITIK SUGGESTS TO FRENCH THAT FRG IS MORE ATTENTATIVE NOW TO MAINTAINING ITS ANCHORAGE WITHIN WESTERN EUROPE. SECOND, FRG PERFORMANCE IN US-EC AND US-NATO TALKS AND IN INTERNAL EC POLITICAL HARMONIZATION (E.G., EC DECLARATION ON MIDDLE EAST) APPEARS -- AT LEAST IN PARIS -- MORE IN LINE WITH FRENCH SPECIFICATIONS THAN PREVIOUS GERMAN APPROACH. MOREOVER, TWO MORE IMMEDIATE FACTORS CONTRIBUTED TO HARMONY OF THIS MEETING. FIRST, ALL REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED AGREE THAT SUMMIT STEERED CLEAR OF IMPORTANT ISSUES WHERE FRENCH AND GERMAN POLICIES DIVERGE SUBSTANTIALLY (E.G. DEFENSE DISCUSSIONS AVOIDED TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND MBFR). SECOND, WE SUSPECT THAT STRAINS IN ATLANTIC RELATIONS OVER LAST MONTH, GENERATED PRIMARILY BY MIDDLE EAST SITUATION,

SUGGESTED BOTH TO POMPIDOU AND TO BRANDT THAT THIS WAS A TIME TO
ACCENTUATE THEIR MUTUAL INTERESTS AND TO MUTE THEIR DISAGREE-
MENTS.
IRWIN

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